

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 MC-02 TRSE-00 XMB-02 /074 W

----- 034429

R 160933Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9447

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OUAGADOUGOU 0896

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, MASS, ML, UV

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT LAMIZANA

REF: OUAGA 708 (NOTAL)

1. I CALLED ON PRESIDENT LAMIZANA AT MY REQUEST LATEAFTERNOON APRIL 14. I REFERRED TO PRESIDENT'S CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE DUMAS MARCH 27 REGARDING ALLEGED PURCHASE BY MALI OF C-130 AND SAID THAT, WHILE IN WASHINGTON ON CONSULATION RECENTLY, I HAD LOOKED INTO THE MATTER AND COULD ASSURE HIM THAT NO C-130 OR HELICOPTERS, WHETHER CIVILIAN OR MILITARY, WOULD BE SOLD TO MALI AS LONG AS BORDER DISPUTE REMAINED UNSETTLED. I ADDED THAT, WHILE MALI MAY HAVE INTENDED TO PURCHASE SOME AIRCRAFT IN THE U.S., SUCH SALES WERE SUBJECT TO EXPORT CONTROLS BY EITHER DEPARTMENT OF STATE OR DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND COULD NOT BE CONSUMMATED WITHOUT USG APPROVAL.

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2. LAMIZANA SEEMED TO ACCEPT MY ASSURANCES BUT HE MADE

NO SPECIFIC COMMENT AND IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT HE HAD OTHER THINGS IN HIS MIND. HE APOLOGIZED FOR HAVING KEPT ME WAITING A FEW MINUTES BUT SAID HE HAD HAD LONG CONVERSATION WITH THE FOUR MEMBERS OF THE LOME MEDIATION COMMISSION WHO HAD JUST ARRIVED FROM BAMAKO AND HAD INFORMED HIM THAT THE MALI GOVERNMENT HAD AT LAST ACCEPTED TO RECEIVE THE MILITARY SUB-COMMISSION. ACCORDING TO THE HEAD OF THE MEDIATION COMMISSION, TOGOLESE FOREIGN MINISTER HUNDELE, THE MEMBERS OF THE SUB-COMMISSION WERE ALREADY IN BAMAKO. LAZMIANA SAID THAT, AS A RESULT OF THIS ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT, HE EXPECTED THAT MALIAN FORCES WOULD NOW WITHDRAW FROM THE CONTESTED AREA. HE HOPED ALSO THAT LEGAL SUB-COMMISSION WOULD SOON MAKE KNOWN ITS FINDINGS.

3. COMMENT: LAMIZANA APPEARED RELAXED AND OBVIOUSLY PLEASED WITH HIS CONVERSATION WITH MEMBERS OF THE MEDIATION COMMISSION. HE DID NOT ONCE REFER TO NIAMEY CEAO SUMMIT MEETING AND SEEMED TO HAVE FULLY RECOVERED FROM THE ANGER AND DISSATISFACTION REPORTED OUAGA 831 AND 850. HIS ECONOMIC ADVISER, ALBERT BALIMA, WHO WAS MEMBER OF VOLTAN DELEGATION TO NIAMEY MEETING, CONFIRMED TO ME LAST NIGHT THAT VOLTAN DELEGATION HAD HAD NO INKLING, UNTIL COMMUNIQUE WAS READ, THAT TWO PARAGRAPHS HAD BEEN INCLUDED ON TREATMENT OF MALIAN CEAO EMPLOYEES IN OUAGADOUGOU. BALIMA ADDED THAT, ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT HAD NOT DISCUSSED THIS PARTICULAR MATTER WITH HIM, HE WAS CONVINCED THERE HAD BEEN QUID PRO QUO IN NIAMEY AND EXPECTED THAT MEDIATION COMMISSION WOULD NOW PRODUCE SOME CONCRETE RESULTS.
GRAHAM

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